

**REMARKS OF MR. NELSON ANDRADE COLMENARES, COORDINATOR
UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME -- REGIONAL COORDINATING
UNIT FOR THE CARIBBEAN
ON THE OCCASION TO WELCOME THE
US EPA OCEAN SURVEY VESSEL, THE PETER W. ANDERSON
21 MAY 2002
PORT ROYAL, KINGSTON**

AMBASSADOR COBB, MINISTER PICKERSGILL, PERMANENT SECRETARY MS. DACOSTA, ADMIRAL BRADY, MEMBERS OF THE PRESS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

I AM VERY PLEASED TO BE HERE ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP) TO WELCOME THE PETER W. ANDERSON TO JAMAICA.

TWO YEARS AGO, UNEP FACILITATED THE ANDERSON'S FIRST INTERNATIONAL SURVEY WHEN THE ANDERSON CONDUCTED SURVEYS IN SANTO DOMINGO OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND ASSISTED THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT THERE TO FURTHER ITS STUDIES OF THE COASTAL AREAS OF SANTO DOMINGO.

I AM EVEN MORE PLEASED THAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FACILITATE THIS VISIT AS WELL AND TO ARRANGE FOR COASTAL SURVEYS TO BE CARRIED OUT BY THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING AGENCY AND THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST INDIES. THE INFORMATION THAT WILL BE OBTAINED FROM THESE OPEN WATER SURVEYS WILL CERTAINLY FURTHER THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE DYNAMICS OF THE JAMAICAN COASTLINE AND PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT IS NEEDED FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT.

THE MISSION OF THE CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME OF UNEP IS TO *PROMOTE REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR THE PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT OF THE WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION.* COORDINATED BY UNEP AND WITH 28 MEMBER COUNTRIES, INCLUDING OF COURSE, BOTH JAMAICA AND THE UNITED STATES, THE CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME NOT ONLY PROVIDES SECRETARIAT SERVICES FOR THE ONLY REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT

FOR THE CARIBBEAN, *THE CARTAGENA CONVENTION*, IT ALSO PROVIDES THE FORUM FOR REGIONAL INTERACTION, COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CARIBBEAN SEA.

LIKEWISE WE ARE ALSO PLEASED TO BE COORDINATING WITH THE MARITIME AUTHORITY OF JAMAICA AND THE SECRETARIAT OF THE LONDON CONVENTION ON OCEAN DUMPING TO CONVENE THIS WEEK'S WORKSHOP IN OCHO RIOS ON MARINE POLLUTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT OF PORTS IN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN. THE WORKSHOP WILL HAVE REPRESENTATION FROM MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME, INCLUDING THE SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES, THE COUNTRIES OF THE GULF OF MEXICO, CENTRAL AMERICA, AND THE SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES WHOSE SHORES ARE WASHED BY THE CARIBBEAN SEA.

THE ANDERSON'S PRESENCE HERE IS A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION BETWEEN WIDER CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES IN THEIR EFFORTS TO PULL TOGETHER TO PROTECT OUR COMMON SEA. WE HOPE THAT THE WORK OF THE ANDERSON HERE IN JAMAICA, NOT ONLY PROVIDES VALUABLE SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION ON JAMAICA'S MARINE ENVIRONMENT, BUT THAT IT ALSO PROVIDES A PLATFORM FOR INCREASED ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS FOR ALL.

THANK YOU AND BEST OF LUCK!

Nelson Andrade Colmenares
Coordinator
UNEP-CAR/RCU
Kingston, Jamaica
(876) 922-9267
uneprcuja@cwjamaica.com
www.cep.unep.org